WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of reducing ischemic injury in a mammal, comprising administering to said mammal a compound that reduces activity of MK2.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein said activity is MK2 expression.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein said ischemic injury is selected from the group consisting of cerebral ischemia, myocardial ischemia and critical limb ischemia.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein said compound inhibits transcription of MK2.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein said compound is an antisense nucleic acid.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein said antisense nucleic acid molecule comprises at least 10 nucleotides the sequence of which is complementary to an mRNA encoding an MK2 polypeptide.

7. The method of claim 5, wherein said antisense nucleic acid is a DNA, wherein transcription of said DNA yields nucleic acid product which is complementary to an mRNA encoding an MK2 polypeptide.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein said compound binds to a regulatory sequence operably linked to MK2.

9. A method of reducing ischemic injury in a mammal, comprising administering to said mammal an inhibitor of MK2 expression.

10. A method of reducing ischemic injury in a mammal, comprising administering to said mammal a compound that reduces activity of MK2.

11. A method for identifying a compound which inhibits MK2 expression in a cell, said method comprising the steps of:
(a) providing a cell that expresses MK2;
(b) culturing said cell in the presence of a test compound; and
(c) determining the level of expression of a MK2 in said cell,
wherein a decrease in said level of expression in the presence of said test compound compared to the level of expression in the absence of said test compound indicates that said test compound inhibits MK2 expression in said cell.

12. A compound identified by the method of claim 11.

13. The compound of claim 12, wherein said compound is a MK2 antagonist.

14. An assay for identifying a compound that modulates the activity of MK2, comprising:
(a) providing a cell expressing MK2;
(b) contacting said cell expressing MK2 with a test compound; and
(c) determining whether said test compound modulates the activity of MK2.

15. The assay of claim 14, wherein said assay is a cell-based assay.

16. The assay of claim 14, wherein said assay is a cell-free assay.

17. The assay of claim 16, wherein said cell-free assay is a ligand-binding assay.

18. The assay of claim 14, wherein said test compound modulates the activity of MK2.

19. The assay of claim 14, wherein said test compound is a MK2 antagonist.

20. The assay of claim 14, wherein said test compound is a MK2 agonist.

21. The assay of claim 14, wherein said test compound binds to MK2.

22. The assay of claim 14, wherein said assay is for identifying compounds which will be useful for the treatment of ischemic injury.

23. A compound identified by the assay of claim 14.

24. The compound of claim 23, wherein said compound is a MK2 antagonist.

25. A method for the treatment of ischemic injury, comprising administering to a patient in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 23.

26. A method for the treatment of ischemic injury, comprising:
(a) identifying a patient suffering from ischemic injury; and
(b) administering to said patient a therapeutically effective amount of a modulator of MK2.